

Helitech has experienced tremendous growth. They now have over 100 employees, operate in five States and had over \$12 million in revenue last year.

Throughout the years, Helitech has won numerous awards, particularly from the Better Business Bureau and the homebuilders associations in the areas where it does business.

In building his business, Bill has always been committed both to his customers and to his employees. He has also been committed to giving back to his community and to many charitable causes. Although Bill does not like to draw attention to his charitable endeavors, there are many organizations that owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Courtney and to Helitech. The Special Olympics, the Poshard Foundation and the Women's Crisis Center in Belleville are benefactors and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital officially recognized Helitech for 10 years of continuous contributions.

Family is also very important to Bill Courtney and tangible evidence of this is the location of the company headquarters on land where his family owned a farm. Several structures from the farm, though significantly modernized, are still in existence today as a reminder to Bill of his roots.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Helitech, to congratulate Bill Courtney and all the employees and to wish them the very best for a bright and prosperous future.

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“THE REAL REFERENDUM”

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Paul Krugman is absolutely correct and every member of Congress should read his thoughtful column before voting on any economic matter.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 30, 2012]

THE REAL REFERENDUM

(By Paul Krugman)

Republicans came into this campaign believing that it would be a referendum on President Obama, and that still-high unemployment would hand them victory on a silver platter. But given the usual caveats—a month can be a long time in politics, it's not over until the votes are actually counted, and so on—it doesn't seem to be turning out that way.

Yet there is a sense in which the election is indeed a referendum, but of a different kind. Voters are, in effect, being asked to deliver a verdict on the legacy of the New Deal and the Great Society, on Social Security, Medicare and, yes, Obamacare, which represents an extension of that legacy. Will they vote for politicians who want to replace Medicare with Vouchercare, who denounce Social Security as “collectivist” (as Paul Ryan once did), who dismiss those who turn to social insurance programs as people unwilling to take responsibility for their lives?

If the polls are any indication, the result of that referendum will be a clear reassertion of support for the safety net, and a clear rejection of politicians who want to return us to

the Gilded Age. But here's the question: Will that election result be honored?

I ask that question because we already know what Mr. Obama will face if re-elected: a clamor from Beltway insiders demanding that he immediately return to his failed political strategy of 2011, in which he made a Grand Bargain over the budget deficit his overriding priority. Now is the time, he'll be told, to fix America's entitlement problem once and for all. There will be calls—as there were at the time of the Democratic National Convention—for him to officially endorse Simpson-Bowles, the budget proposal issued by the co-chairmen of his deficit commission (although never accepted by the commission as a whole).

And Mr. Obama should just say no, for three reasons.

First, despite years of dire warnings from people like, well, Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, we are not facing any kind of fiscal crisis. Indeed, U.S. borrowing costs are at historic lows, with investors actually willing to pay the government for the privilege of owning inflation-protected bonds. So reducing the budget deficit just isn't the top priority for America at the moment; creating jobs is. For now, the administration's political capital should be devoted to passing something like last year's American Jobs Act and providing effective mortgage debt relief.

Second, contrary to Beltway conventional wisdom, America does not have an “entitlements problem.” Mainly, it has a health cost problem, private as well as public, which must be addressed (and which the Affordable Care Act at least starts to address). It's true that there's also, even aside from health care, a gap between the services we're promising and the taxes we're collecting—but to call that gap an “entitlements” issue is already to accept the very right-wing frame that voters appear to be in the process of rejecting.

Finally, despite the bizarre reverence it inspires in Beltway insiders—the same people, by the way, who assured us that Paul Ryan was a brave truth-teller—the fact is that Simpson-Bowles is a really bad plan, one that would undermine some key pieces of our safety net. And if a reelected president were to endorse it, he would be betraying the trust of the voters who returned him to office.

Consider, in particular, the proposal to raise the Social Security retirement age, supposedly to reflect rising life expectancy. This is an idea Washington loves—but it's also totally at odds with the reality of an America in which rising inequality is reflected not just in the quality of life but in its duration. For while average life expectancy has indeed risen, that increase is confined to the relatively well-off and well-educated—the very people who need Social Security least. Meanwhile, life expectancy is actually falling for a substantial part of the nation.

Now, there's no mystery about why Simpson-Bowles looks the way it does. It was put together in a political environment in which progressives, and even supporters of the safety net as we know it, were very much on the defensive—an environment in which conservatives were presumed to be in the ascendant, and in which bipartisanship was effectively defined as the effort to broker deals between the center-right and the hard right.

Barring an upset, however, that environment will come to an end on Nov. 6. This election is, as I said, shaping up as a referendum on our social insurance system, and it looks as if Mr. Obama will emerge with a

clear mandate for preserving and extending that system. It would be a terrible mistake, both politically and for the nation's future, for him to let himself be talked into snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
POCASSET COMMUNITY CLUB

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pocasset Community Club upon its centennial anniversary.

The Pocasset Community Club traces its roots to seventeen women who lived in the region over a century ago. Together, they formed a club to promote scholarly exchanges amongst themselves. These women had wanderlust for travel but had neither the economic means nor the opportunity to see the world. So, they decided to do the second best thing, and named their group “The Travelers Club.” The members would take turns presenting a report of a travel experience they would like to have, and would then discuss these destinations and the journeys necessary to get there. Before long, the club became quite popular in Pocasset, and it was no longer possible to meet in members' homes. The Travelers Club created a fund to erect their own building, starting the fund with just \$25.90. By 1912, enough money had been saved, and the first Travelers Club meeting was held in the group's new building on October 3rd of that year.

In 1948, ownership of the building was transferred to a group of town residents who renamed it as the Pocasset Community Club. As more and more families moved to the area, the Club's popularity grew quickly. Saturday night dinners, dances for the local teenagers, and family movie nights ensured that the Club was a popular spot for the people of Pocasset. Travelers Club meetings continued to thrive, and other groups found their home in the building as well. Today, the Pocasset Village Association ensures that the original mission of the Community Club remains in place. The building continues to be a beloved location for the town, hosting Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts meetings, 4H events, and countless other town proceedings.

The Pocasset community will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its Community Club building by honoring the original founders of the Travelers Club, a group of courageous women who were certainly ahead of their time in establishing their own organization when women's suffrage was over a decade away. The many groups who have since then kept the Community Club an active location in Pocasset will also be remembered during this celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Pocasset Community Club upon its centennial anniversary, as well as the countless men and women whose work has made the Club a central fixture in the Pocasset community. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these outstanding organizations.